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ments in its development. The open-air meetings of the Wesleyan revivalists had their share; the old right of petition to the crown for redress of any grievance, and the occasional waves of popular clamor gave it a fitful existence until, at the time of the so called "Wilkes Rebellion," it first became an organized political engine, then and since acting as a perpetual check upon the party in power. To the student of politics this book should prove of great value and interest. It will be published by Macmillan & Co. early in January.

— Frederick Warne & Co., New York, will shortly issue at a popular price "Electricity up to Date for Light, Power, and Traction," clearly explained, with diagrams, etc., for non-scientific readers, by John B. Verity, M.Inst.E.E. (London). The same firm will shortly publish the new volume of "Barker's Facts and Figures for the Year 1892," edited by Thomas Whittaker, containing a large amount of information relating to commerce, government, insurance, agriculture, population, education, finance, health, wealth, religion, railways, etc., with special reference to those matters which concern the inhabitants of Great Britain.

— A "General Encyclopedia of the History and Science of the Jews" has been undertaken by J. Singer, in Paris, and will comprise twelve large volumes, according to *The New York Tribune*. The author hopes to present the main facts of Jewish history, and

to show the effects of the Jewish race upon the various factors of civilization, science, literature, commerce, industry, etc. The work will not be finished for some time.

— The trustees of the British Museum, we learn from *The Publishers' Weekly*, will shortly issue the second instalment of Dr. Bezold's "Catalogue of the Cuneiform Tablets in the Kouyunjik Collection." This volume will contain the descriptions of nearly six thousand tablets and fragments which formed part of the famous clay library preserved by the kings of Assyria at Nineveh. This library was founded by Assurbanipal, B.C. 668-626, and contained official documents which had been sent to Sargon and Sennacherib by the generals of the army and others, as well as a series of works relating to every branch of science known to the Assyrians, and copies of ancient classical books and legends from Babylonia. In this volume will be found a classification of omen, and astrological texts; a work which has never before been attempted; and a considerable number of important extracts are printed in the cuneiform characters.

— Hubert Howe Bancroft, who is spending the winter with his family in the City of Mexico, has been requested by Gen. Porfirio Diaz, President of the Republic of Mexico, to write a book on the resources and development of Mexico, to be published in Spanish and in English, and to be a true and vivid representation of industrial Mexico as it exists to-day, primarily for presentation at the

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Annual address of the President of the Biological Society of Washington delivered Jan. 24, 1891. A historical and critical review of modern scientific thought relative to heredity, and especially to the problem of the transmission of acquired characters. The following are the several heads involved in the discussion: Status of the Problem, Lamarckism, Darwinism, Acquired Characters, Theories of Heredity, Views of Mr. Galton, Teachings of Professor Weismann, A Critique of Weismann, Neo-Darwinism, Neo-Lamarckism, the American "School," Application to the Human Race. In so far as views are expressed they are in the main in line with the general current of American thought, and opposed to the extreme doctrine of the non-transmissibility of acquired characters.

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## CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

### Chemical Society, Washington.

Dec. 10.—H. W. Wiley and W. H. Krug, On so called Floridite; T. M. Chatard, Notes on Analysis of Phosphate Rocks; I. T. Davis, Meat Preservatives; W. F. Hillebrand and Wm. H. Melville, On the Isomorphism and Composition of Thorium and Uranous Sulphates; a paper on Midzu Ame is proposed for the meeting of Jan. 14, 1892.

### Biological Society, Washington.

Geo. Marx, On the Structure and Construction of the Geometric Spider Web; Chas. D. White, Some Peculiar Forms in an Upland Carboniferous Flora; F. H. Knowlton, Fruiting Ferns from the Laramie Group; Frederick V. Coville, Review of Kuntze's *Revisio Generum Plantarum*; C. W. Stiles, Notes on Parasites: *Spiroptera scutata*.

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## PHYSICAL MEASUREMENT.

By HAROLD WHITING, Ph.D., formerly instructor, Harvard University. New Edition, 8vo, 1,326 pages, \$3.75. D. C. HEATH & CO., Publishers, Boston.

World's Fair. Mr. Bancroft went south, says *The Publisher's Weekly*, to avoid rather than to seek work. Having many warm friends in that quarter, he had hoped for a brief period of rest after many years of severe labor. But when Gen. Diaz made this request, offering at the same time not only to co-operate with him in every respect, to give him freely his own views on all important subjects, but to enlist the co-operation of the chiefs of departments and Governors of States, he felt that he could not refuse. Gen. Diaz had shown him many favors in times past; furthermore, the subject had peculiar attractions. He had been over the same ground historically, and was interested in its later development. As in all his publications, Mr. Bancroft will utilize the labors of able assistants, who have been at work in various parts of the republic collecting material. Besides these, Mr. George H. Morrison, Secretary of the History Company of San Francisco, will at once join Mr. Bancroft in Mexico, and assist in carrying forward this important undertaking.

— The geographical collection made by the Department of Geography of the Brooklyn Institute during the years 1889 and 1890, and very greatly increased in value and completeness, will be exhibited in the Natural History Building in Central Park, New York, at Fifth Avenue and Sixty-fourth Street, for six weeks, beginning on Dec. 24, at nine o'clock. The exhibition will occupy the two main floors of the building, and will be open free to the public from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., on six days in the week, and until ten o'clock on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. The exhibition is given at this time in order to afford teachers, superintendents, and all others interested in education from all parts of the country, to visit and study the collection during the holidays, when the schools are not in session. The exhibition is made under the auspices of the New York Teachers' Association, which defrays all the incidental expenses. The Board of Park Commissioners of New York have generously contributed the use of the Museum Building.

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